GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3739
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICE TO FARMERS
Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 81% of farmers are not aware of about Minimum Support Price according to a National Sample Survey conducted recently;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make awareness among the farmers in this regard;

(c) whether a good percentage of farmers are not even aware of how to sell their produce under the MSP decided by the Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to introduce any method so that the farmers get right price for their produce; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (e): According to Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers carried out by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in its 59th Round (January − December, 2003), 71 per cent of farmers did not know or understand the concept of Minimum Support Price. Among the farmers surveyed, 10 per cent understood what Minimum Support Price meant but not of the procurement agency. Remaining 19 per cent not only understood the idea of Minimum Support Price but also knew the agency (if not its name, its location) to which they would sell their crop if its market price fell below the Minimum Support Price.

To create awareness among farmers, support is provided to the States in strengthening extension programmes through a number of schemes. The various schemes include: support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms, Mass Media Support to Agriculture, Kisan Call Centres and Establishment of Agri-Clinic and Agri-Business Centres by Agriculture Graduates. Under the Central Sector Scheme on Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension, agriculture related information and knowledge to the farming community is provided through 172 Narrow Casting Centres, 18 Regional Centres, 1 National Doordarshan Kendra and through 96 FM radio stations. Information on Minimum Support Prices of various commodities is disseminated through these programmes to the farmers since September 2005 onwards